

Washington, DC-Today Congressman Harry Teague announced that the Department of Energy will distribute \$172 million under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to accelerate completion of legacy transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad. Energy Secretary Steven Chu will be announcing the funds for WIPP as part of a \$6 billion package of new funding from the ARRA to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states.

"The Recovery funding that will go to WIPP will create hundreds of jobs in southeastern New Mexico and help jumpstart the economy in a responsible way," said Congressman Harry Teague. "The work that WIPP does to prepare and store nuclear waste is a unique and vital asset to our nation."

WIPP helps prepare waste for disposal at 11 sites across the country and then eventually receives the materials at the Carlsbad facility for long-term storage. Because of the increased funding, activity, jobs and investment will increase at the Carlsbad WIPP facility, including facility modifications to take in different sized and shaped containers of waste.

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